

DCBS Superheroes Named – August 2021 Vision

Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub has announced new recipients of the DCBS Superhero Award, an honor for DCBS employees who above and beyond their job description in serving families, adults and children.

Recent honorees are Teatra Davis of the Two Rivers Service Region, Isaac Rivera of the Northern Bluegrass Service Region and the Eastern Mountain Service Region Retention and Morale Committee.

Congratulations to these DCBS Superhero Award winners!

Teatra Davis, Social Service Clinician II, Warren County Division of Protection and Permanency



Teatra has been with the Cabinet for more 15 years, and her nominator said she goes above and beyond for the children and families that she serves as an ongoing worker in Warren County.

Teatra has developed a wonderful working relationship with community partners and is respected by court personnel and throughout the region. She is aware of the services that could best serve her clients and ensures to make those connections swiftly.

Always a smiling face to her co-workers, Teatra is a loving connection for the children she serves. She is a mentor to new staff within our region and is willing to offer a helping hand amongst her team members and others within the Warren County office. Teatra has a loving, caring personality. She has a passion to serve others and does that so well. If you know Teatra, you know how much love she has for the children she serves. She maintains connections with her kids that have been adopted. She is a support to birth families and she does her best to empower change within the clients she serves.

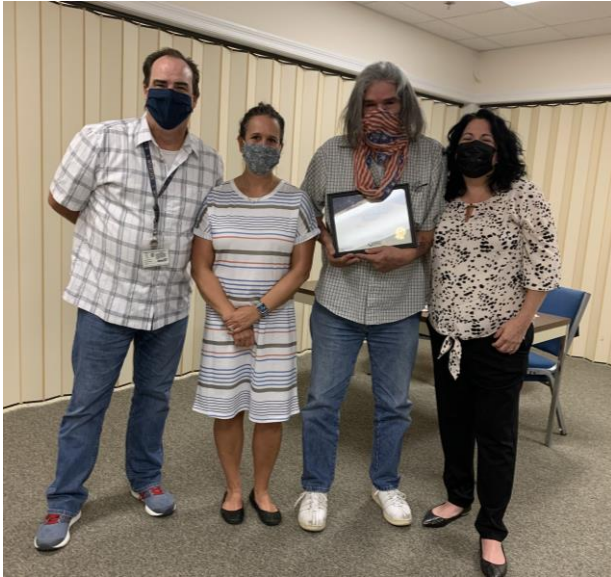
Teatra's nominator said she has some challenging cases within Warren County. Most recently she had a case with a terminally ill child. She was actively involved in his case

from the day he entered foster care, until the day he lost his battle with cancer. She advocated for him in all ways that she could. She learned about his medical diagnosis and was available to him when needed. Teatra provides this type of support to her families. She is involved and develops a working relationship with them. Teatra is a Superhero because she is often the voice for the voiceless and has a heart of gold. She would truly do anything to help others.

Teatra has a passion to make a difference with her clients. She is always willing to lend a helping hand, whether that is to help a co-worker with a removal, transporting a child or assisting her team when their supervisor is on leave. Most importantly the kids on her caseload

know she is someone they can count on through the good or bad. She is honest with her kids and respected by them and the clients she serves. Congratulations, Teatra!

Isaac Rivera, Family Support Specialist II, Kenton County Division of Family Support, Northern Bluegrass Service Region



Field Services Supervisor Charlie Bolton, Service Region Administrator Kelly Skerchock, Superhero Isaac Rivera and Service Region Administrator Associate Kendra Snider

Isaac's nomination was inspired by a customer's message to the Office of the Ombudsman's email, CHFSListens@ky.gov, during the COVID-19 pandemic last year. Isaac's client wrote:

"I notice there was no venue for leaving a compliment so I chose this forum. I have found myself in the position to need food stamps and have called several times. Today I was blessed to be helped by Isaac Rivera. He went above and beyond and was empathetic and helpful. I have never needed snap in my life and it is a horrible and desperate situation to be in -- Isaac went out of his way to help and suggest other programs that could be of assistance. Please recognize Isaac for his beautiful spirit and servant's heart. He was a godsend to me today!"

Isaac's leadership said he consistently serves in a kind and compassionate manner to make clients – many in desperate situations like this one - feel comfortable and hopeful.

We're so proud of you Isaac! Congratulations!

Eastern Mountain Service Region Retention and Morale Committee



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The 21-member Eastern Mountain Service Region Retention and Morale Committee The EMSR Morale committee goes above and beyond in their retention work. The group of 21 Ambassadors have done awesome work during 2021 to provide all employees with special recognition. Ambassadors were chosen for their empathy and the respect they display to others.

The Ambassadors Committee began 2021 with some funding remaining from 2019. The Ambassadors recently held an all-employees event that was filled with laughter, prizes and great food. More than 300 employees attended this year's event, which was held in Paintsville. The group offered fundraising events such as RADA cutlery sales, online auctions and basket raffles. All the food served was free for everyone. The hard work of each committee member made the event a success!

The EMSR Ambassadors committee exemplifies teamwork, work ethic/commitment and positive attitude. All members give their all so that their fellow coworkers would surely enjoy themselves and feel appreciated.

Service Region Administrator Associate Deborah Webb and the supervisors on the committee (Wade Caudell, Steve Sammons, Phillip Cochran, Morgan May, and Marlena Carpenter) provided excellent leadership in planning the event. All were very physically active at the event, and a lot of hard work was on display. All Ambassadors went above and beyond to make the event successful. Carmela Perkins, a Family Services Office Supervisor, in Pike County, volunteered to take care of the self-care station. Carmela worked throughout the event to lead EMSR employees through the self-care activities.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ambassadors also did some community outreach. One example of their exemplary service was providing toboggans and gloves to residents of a local shelter. The team also donated food from the 2021 employee event to local adult facilities in need.

Congratulations to all members of the team! You do so much for the Eastern Mountain Region!

Eastern Mountain Service Region Retention and Morale Committee

- Co Lead Deborah Webb
- Co Lead Rhonda Blanton
- Amanda Bray
- Marlena Carpenter
- Robert Wade Caudell
- Phillip Cochran
- Samantha Coleman
- Heather Collins
- Mitch Crum
- Leanne Hale
- Kendra Hensley
- Tamara Howard
- Morgan May
- Glenda Meade
- Jonie Morgan
- Opal Noble
- Krysta Perry
- Ashley Salyer
- Cheryl Salyer
- Steve Sammons
- Jessica Salyers

How to Nominate for the DCBS Superhero Award

Anyone can nominate. Please make a nomination of a deserving colleague. Learn more about the Superhero Award [here](#). Get the Superhero Award nomination form [here](#).